

Munitions Law to Rule Both Capital and Labor

British Employers Must Not Declare Lockouts Nor Workers Go on Strike Until Board of Trade Considers Case—Measure Has Wide Scope.

London.—The text of the munitions of war bill, introduced by Mr. Lloyd George, consists of three parts, comprising seven clauses, with two schedules.

Clause 1 enacts that the Board of Trade shall settle any dispute between employers and employees in default of agreement by the parties concerned, and the award will be binding on both. Failure to comply with the award will constitute an offense.

Clause 2 provides that an employer shall not declare a lockout and an employee shall not take part in a strike unless the difference has been reported to the Board of Trade and one month has elapsed, and the difference has not during that month been referred by the Board of Trade for settlement.

The differences to which Part 1 of the bill applies are differences as to rates of wages, hours of work, or otherwise as to terms or conditions of or affecting employment on the manufacture or repair of arms, ammunition, ships, vehicles, or any other articles required for use in war, or of the machines or tools required for that manufacture or repair.

Applies to Other Disputes.

It also applies to disputes in any other work of any description if the King by proclamation declares that in his opinion it is expedient in the national interest. It is not necessary that a strike or lockout should be in existence for the act to be applied.

Any proposal for any change in the rate of wages of employees in the establishment shall be submitted to the Minister, and not be made without his consent. If the Minister so directs, or if the Minister's consent is withheld, the firm proposing the change may refer the matter to one of three arbitration tribunals and the consent of the tribunal, if given, shall have the same effect as the consent of the Minister.

Any rule, practice or custom not having the force of law which tends to restrict production or employment shall be suspended in the establishment, and if any person incites or encourages any employer or person employed to comply, or continue to comply, with such a rule, practice or custom, that person shall be guilty of an offense under this act. If any question arises on this point it is to be referred to the Board of Trade, who may either determine it themselves or refer it to an arbitration tribunal, whose decision shall be conclusive.

All persons employed shall comply with regulations made applicable to the establishment with respect to the general ordering of the work in order to attain and maintain a proper standard of efficiency.

RISKS RUN BY COUSINS IN MARRYING

In an article on the marriage of cousins, printed in the *Eugenics Review* (London), Prof. Edward Nettleship of London University (who died recently) adduced statistics of several isolated localities in which the intermarriage of near relatives has been almost universal, to show that these communities are unusually healthy, their people are long-lived, the families are large and there are no signs of weakness. His conclusion is that "marriages between cousins are as safe from the eugenic point of view as any other marriages, provided the parents and stock are sound. The difficulty, of course, is to decide upon this vital point." When there is weakness in a common ancestor—a weakness that is or may be hereditary insanity or tendency to tuberculosis, for instance—the children of cousins inherit it from both sides. But the same is true of any striking strength or marked talent.

However, the objection to the marriage of near relatives is too deeply rooted to be abolished by even proof that in case of perfect heredity it is harmless; for few men and women can be absolutely certain that their heredity is perfect.

The writer of this knows of a case in which first cousins—both perfectly healthy and the children of seemingly healthy parents—were on the point of marriage when a distant relative showed them that their great-grandfather had died of a terrible blood disease and revealed to them what neither of their parents had known, that their mutual grandmother had suffered from an inherited form of this same disease. Later the mother of the young man became insane. Had it not been for that distant relative stepping in and revealing a secret that had been kept from the parents of the young people these would have married and that remote weakness would probably have manifested itself in their children. Such weaknesses as that are carefully concealed even in families; therefore the cousins who marry are, to say the least, running a great risk.

The owners must comply with any reasonable requirements of the Minister as to information or otherwise.

Clause 6 states that if any workman enters into an undertaking to work at a controlled establishment and fails to comply he will be guilty of an offense. An employer will commit an offense if he dissuades or attempts to dissuade a workman in his employ from entering into an undertaking, or retains or offers to retain any workman who has entered into such an undertaking after he has received notice from the Minister of Munitions that the man is to work at some other establishment.

Employees on Record.

Under Clause 7 an employer shall not employ a workman who has been engaged in munition making unless the man holds a certificate from his last employer that he left with his consent, or a certificate from the munitions tribunal that the consent has been unreasonably withheld, or unless six weeks have elapsed.

A workman who thinks that an employer's consent to his leaving has been unreasonably withheld may complain to a tribunal, which has power to grant a certificate.

Under Part III, owners of establishments must give information to the Minister, if required, as to the number of their employees, the number of machines and the nature of the work.

False statements, the giving of false certificates or the wearing of badges in a manner calculated to deceive are constituted offenses.

Failure to comply with an award means, upon summary conviction, a fine not exceeding £5 (\$25) for each day or part of a day during which the contravention or failure to comply continues. If the guilty person happens to be an employer the fine will apply to each man in respect of whom the contravention takes place.

Employers declaring a lockout will be penalized to the amount of £5 in respect of each man for each day. The penalty is similar in the case of strikers. Three pounds is the penalty for contravention of or failure to comply with regulations in a controlled establishment or any undertaking given by a workman.

Non-payment of a fine does not mean imprisonment for a workman, but the tribunal may, without prejudice to any other available means of recovery, make an order requiring deductions from wages due, and the person by whom the wages are paid will have to account for the sums deducted. It is specifically stated that a workman "shall not be imprisoned" in respect to the non-payment of a fine.

NEW AGREEMENTS SIGNED.

Newburg, N. Y.—The Typographical union reports that a new five-year agreement, with betterments, has been signed with employers. The Bakers' union has reduced working hours from nine to eight and secured a new agreement. A contract has also been entered into between the Street Car Men's union and the local company.

ORGANIZATION NECESSARY.

Detroit.—"Organization is the practical way for the advancement of the wage earner," declared Louis F. Post, of the United States department of labor, in an address at the closing of the convention of the Association of Governmental Labor Officials of the United States and Canada.

WIN TWO-PLATOON SYSTEM.

Colorado Springs, Colo.—With the adoption of the two-platoon system the City Firemen's Association has increased in membership. The union is affiliated to the American Federation of Labor and recently initiated an ordinance providing for shorter hours. It was adopted by 900 majority.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Charleston, S. C.—Officers of the state federation of labor have issued a call for the first annual convention to be held at the Isle of Palms, August 9 and 10. This organization was only recently formed, and it is the intention of South Carolina unionists to make the event a notable one.

Sport.

"Your friend Briggs has a fine coat of tan. He must be fond of outdoor sports."

"He is. That fellow spends two hours every afternoon standing out in the hot sun in front of a baseball bulletin board."

FAVORS SEAMEN'S LAW; OWNERS' PLEA EXPOSED BY WASHINGTON POST

Washington.—"The seamen's act should stand exactly as it is, at least until the need is shown for amendment. The protest sent up by the steamship interests is entirely too self-centered to be accepted without scrutiny," says the Washington Post in a leading editorial.

The newspaper refuses to take the word of shipping interests and allies on this question and declares the companies are "trying to stampede" the national administration into repealing the law by predicting the speedy death of all steamship lines.

"The law is not destructive of the merchant marine," says the Post. "It does require additional precautions, which cost some money. It provides that 75 per cent of the crew shall be able to understand the orders given by the officers. Is that unreasonable? What would be thought of a general sending a regiment of soldiers to protect the people of a city and permitting an arrangement whereby the soldiers could not understand the orders of their chief? A ship at sea meets conditions comparable to those of war and fire, where instant teamwork is necessary to prevent wholesale loss of life. A concrete case of disaster on account of inability to understand orders was that of the steamship City of Rio de Janeiro, lost at the entrance of the Golden Gate in 1901. The Chinese crew could not understand the orders of the American officers."

"The seamen's act also requires better provision for lifeboats and life rafts. Do the steamship interests object to this? If so, let them object. The country will not approve of a return to the old deadly dangers merely because safety appliances are an expense to the steamship companies. The public pays the bill in any event."

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVES TO BE SUCCESS SAYS QUEENSLAND PAPER

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.—At the recent elections the labor party secured control of the government in this state, which tried compulsory voting for the first time in Australia. Opponents of the laborites passed the law, believing that it would aid them. The result proved their mistake.

Commenting on this new voting idea, the Adelaide Daily Herald predicts an extension of the compulsory voting plan, as the labor party controls Australia. The paper says:

"It is to be feared that many persons, who should be wholeheartedly for labor, treat their political obligations all too lightly. In time of national stress they will vote, but when all is going well, many do not. The compulsory voting provision acts as a spur to them. It may be taken for granted that the principle will be adopted in the commonwealth arena at an early date."

The Daily Herald says that the Queensland election and the triumph of the labor party shows that the voters in that state did not forget the clumsy attempts of the government three years ago to break a strike of street car workers. Armed bodies of men were brought from the country districts, and the affair was treated as a civil war. Since then "there has been ample time to expose the lies that served so well years ago," and even non-labor voters resented the deception that had been practiced on them.

PRESSMEN'S DISPUTE ENDS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn.—Differences between the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union and unaffiliated locals of New York City, feeders' unions of Buffalo and St. Louis and Web Pressmen's union of Newark, N. J., are at an end. Patience and continued negotiations have again united these workers, who have signed a report to this effect and call upon the membership to accept same with the end in view that the international "may be of increasing influence for the advancement of the requirements of our membership."

SUPPORT PROF. BREWSTER.

Denver, Colo.—The Trades and Labor Assembly has protested against the dismissal of Prof. Brewster from the law department of the state university, and declares that this action "is because of the subsidizing tendency of the Rockefeller influence and money, which seeks to use its influence with the board of regents to poison truth and justice at its fountain head, our institutions of learning."

IRON WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Savannah, Ga.—The newly organized Structural Iron Workers' union has won its strike for higher wages, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sunday work. The strike lasted less than three days.

Why Not Make Free Trip to Frisco Fair

The Labor Advocate has decided to give its friends the opportunity to make some of the most pleasurable trips to be taken in this country, and at no expense to themselves.

Would you like to make the trip to the American Federation of Labor meeting in San Francisco next fall?

Would you like to go to the meeting of the Ohio State Federation at Mansfield, Ohio?

The trip to San Francisco will be made at the time when the great Panama Exposition is in full swing; at the time when all the nations of the world will have their exhibits fully completed, and when the crowds will be at their largest and the city of the Golden Gate in its most gala attire.

The opportunity seldom has been offered to the person of moderate means to take such trip without cost to himself. This trip means a liberal education; it means that you may see all the wonders of modern times, meet and mingle with the peoples of all countries; see the greatest works of art; the most wonderful buildings and electrical effects ever shown; the Chicago and the St. Louis Fairs were as the first steamboat that ran up the Hudson as compared with the present-day trans-Atlantic ocean greyhounds when viewed with what San Francisco will offer to the world this year.

The trip to Mansfield, O., while of lesser importance, also has manifold advantages. Mansfield is a modern little

city, nestling in one of the most beautiful valleys in the world. A week there will give you an outing, free from the smoke and grime of a great city, a chance to "get back to the country" and see the likeness of the old-home town.

Do you want to take one of these trips?

This is how you can do it without cost to yourself:

Popularity Contest.

The one obtaining the greatest number of votes will receive a railroad ticket over any line he may choose, sleeping car fare and \$50 in cash to pay his incidental expenses.

The one receiving the second highest number of votes will receive his railroad fare to and from Mansfield, O., and \$35 in cash.

To the person receiving the third highest number of votes will be given the same railroad facilities and \$25 in cash.

To the contestant getting the fourth highest number of ballots there will be given the same railroad facilities and \$15 in cash.

Does this sound good to you?

Then this is the way to obtain for yourself or your friends these coveted privileges:

Come to Room 34, Thoms Building, Main and Fifth streets, and the details will be explained. It will not cost you a cent to inquire, and it may mean one of the most profitable and pleasurable events of your life.

TRAIN DEATHS SHOW 50 PER CENT DROP

Safety Precautions Reflected Also In Decrease In Number of Hurt.

Washington.—Reports made to the Interstate Commerce Commission by the steam railways of the country pursuant to law covering the quarter ending March 31 shows that 65 persons were killed and 1,972 injured in train accidents for the quarter. Compared with the same period the preceding year this was a decrease of nearly 100 per cent in the fatalities and of more than 5 per cent in the accidents reporting simply injuries.

There was also a considerable decrease in the number of other accidents, including those of employees engaged in railway work and to employees engaged in other work than the operation of trains, classed as "industrial accidents." There were fewer railway accidents in the first quarter of the present year than for the corresponding period of last year.

Altogether the report is an excellent showing for the railways, proving that railway travel is becoming safer every year. The report shows that 74.8 per cent of the derailments were due, the commission finds, to defective roadway and defective equipment. Of the accidents due to defective roadway, about 21.2 per cent were caused by broken rails, and of the derailments due to defective equipment 28 per cent were caused by defective or broken wheels.

A ROMANCE OF THE RAIN.

Little Psyche Smithson sauntered by the sea
In her little bathing dress coming to the knee.
Phoebus smiled from heavens blue as blue could be.

Came some inky storm clouds racing down the sky.
Bringing lots of raindrops which are never dry.
Little Psyche Smithson turned around to fly.

Little Psyche Smithson ran as for a bet;
Scuttled into shelter ere the storm clouds met.
"My," gasped little Psyche, "I almost got wet!" M. M.

A LAMENT.

A disappointed lightning bug
Went flitting through the night,
Disgruntled that his work in life
Was merely giving light.

Cried he: "I've studied ways of men
And find without a doubt
'Tis not the silent shining chap
Folks ever hear about."

"And this is why I sadly weep:
My lot is left of joys;
I'd rather be a thunder bug
And make a great big noise."

McLanburgh Wilson.

THE ARTIST.

When I looked upon her photo I was quite bewitched, in toto;
I was captivated to the point of mushiness!
I perused each charming feature of the fascinating creature,
And my fervent admiration verged on shyness.
"She is charmin', she is rippin'! She's a lily, she's a pippin!
She's the perfect piece of porcelain from the pottery!
She's a lyrie, she's a Sapphic! She's the dame that blocks the traffic!
She's the first prize in life's everlasting lottery!

Gained I not an introduction I'd have practised self-destruction,
My passion was both terrible and tropical;

But I'd friends and soon could bring 'em to produce this piece of gingham.
Though they did it in a manner misanthropical.

Bubbles, we, and breezes bust us! Did the picture do her justice?
Is mythology constructed by machinery?

I confess to irritation, also to my admiration
For the artist who retouched that bit of scenery!

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NEW TRIAL REFUSED.

Lawson Is Sentenced To Life Imprisonment at Hard Labor.

Trinidad, Colo.—John R. Lawson, labor leader, convicted of murder in connection with strike disorders, was denied a new trial by Judge Granby Hillyer in District court.

Lawson was sentenced to spend the remainder of his life at hard labor in the state penitentiary.

Lawson read a lengthy statement, in which he maintained his innocence, charged that he had been made the victim of "a corporation-controlled prosecution" and alleged that his trial had been a "travesty on justice." During the reading Lawson faltered more than once. With a few remarks to the defendant, Judge Hillyer pronounced sentence.

Attorney F. W. Clark, representing Lawson, was granted 60 days to file a bill of exceptions and 30 days' stay of execution. Counsel also asked that, pending action on the appeal by the Supreme court, the convicted man be allowed bond. This the court said could not be granted, and the labor leader was taken to jail.

Variety.

"Why do you prefer a motor boat to a sail boat?"

"It's more exciting. In a sail boat you face death by drowning only, while in a motor boat you may drown, you may be burned to a crisp by a gasoline explosion or you may starve to death when the engine breaks down ten miles from shore."